



UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN
DEBBIE STABENOW
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**U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and the Alliance for
Retired Americans Kick off Rx Express Bus Trip to Canada**

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), coordinator of the Senate Prescription Drug Task Force, was joined by senior citizens from throughout Southeastern Michigan, as well as the Alliance for Retired Americans and a number of her colleagues in the Michigan Congressional delegation, today as she kicked off the *Rx Express* bus trip from Detroit to Windsor. Today's trip is part of the largest-ever bus trip effort organized to give senior citizens access to affordable prescription drugs. Over the next month, *Rx Express* buses will take hundreds of seniors from across the nation to Canada to buy prescription medications at prices significantly lower than those available in the United States.

"This is the third *Rx Express* trip that I have helped organize to take senior citizens to Canada to purchase their prescription drugs. Each of these important bus trips has saved seniors thousands of dollars off of the high price of their prescriptions. In fact, some have saved as much as fifty percent," said Stabenow. "I am confident that the seniors who are boarding the buses today will be able to take advantage of prescription prices far lower than what they would pay in the United States."

Beginning in late May and continuing through June, the *Rx Express* buses will take hundreds of people to Canada to buy prescription drugs. In addition to Michigan, buses have departed from Connecticut, Oregon and Ohio, among others. Trips are scheduled to leave from Minnesota, North Dakota, New Hampshire and other states later this month. Each of the trips has been organized in part by the Alliance for Retired Americans.

"These bus trips are success stories that have given many Michigan seniors access to prescriptions they otherwise would not have been able to afford. However, we must act now to allow U.S.-licensed pharmacists and drug wholesalers to import FDA-approved medications from Canada so that, next time, no one will have to cross the border to get the prescriptions they need to stay healthy at a price they can afford," said Stabenow. "The number of seniors across the nation who will be climbing aboard the *Rx Express* this month also highlights the need for Congress to modernize Medicare to cover prescription medications."

In April, Senators Stabenow, Dorgan and Jeffords introduced legislation, the bipartisan MEDS Act II (S.215), to lower the high cost of prescription drugs by letting Americans take advantage of international price competition by allowing U.S.-licensed pharmacists and drug wholesalers to import FDA-approved medications from Canada, resulting in lower prices at the prescription counter and lessening the need for seniors and families to travel across the border to obtain affordable medications. The legislation also allows individuals to import a 90-day supply of prescription drugs from Canada for their own personal use.

"It is simply unfair that, although American taxpayers subsidize the development and the advertising of prescription drugs, we pay more for them than anyone else in the world. Prescription drug reimportation can provide Americans with immediate relief from these astronomical prices. I find it ironic that, although the Senate recently completed action on a new trade bill, prescription drugs are the one product that cannot be traded freely with Canada," said Stabenow.